

# the Gateway

Vol. 62, No. 3, Feb. 6, 2004, Rhein-Main AB, Germany

USAFE's Best Small Funded Newspaper for 2003

## News Briefs

### **Amn. of the quarter**

Congratulations to Airman 1st Class Brandon Cunningham of the base fire department, who was recently named the 86th Airlift Wing and Kaiserslautern Military Community Airman of the Quarter for the first quarter of FY04.

### **Town Hall meeting**

Col. Bradley Denison will host the first "Rhein-Main Community Drawdown Meeting" at 6 p.m. Feb. 19 at the base theater.

Issues to be discussed include Rhein-Main December 2005 drawdown closure plans for services, schools, housing, the base exchange and other quality-of-life issues.

To facilitate the exchange of information, please submit questions to the public affairs office at [pa@rheinmain.af.mil](mailto:pa@rheinmain.af.mil).



Photo by Staff Sgt. Marie Cassetty

### **I D.A.R.E. you**

*Spc. Amanda MacLean, 221st Base Support Battalion Provost Marshal Office, works with kindergarten students Tuesday at Halvorsen-Tunner American School as part of a nine-week D.A.R.E. program. For more information on the D.A.R.E. program, see page 7.*

## Take time to recognize

By Chief Master Sgt.  
Gary G. Coleman

USAFE Command Chief Master Sergeant

### **RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany**

— Regardless of rank or time in the Air Force, recognizing a member for outstanding performance plays a huge part in individual and unit morale. Most of us simply want to know that what we do is appreciated.

Whether recognizing someone informally with a simple pat on the back,

See *Recognition*, Page 6

## Project SMART

*Focusing brainpower on risk management*

By Col. Scott Adams  
USAFE Director of Safety

Project SMART "Smartly Managing Awareness, Risk, and Threats" is one of the newest Combat and Special Interest Programs.

The goals of Project SMART are to help people emphasize and incorporate a "smart" way of doing things into their lives and emphasize risk management and reduction at the personal and organizational level. These goals are consistent with current safety programs.

Project SMART will allow command-

ers to reinvigorate already strong safety programs and remind individuals to use the question, "Is this the right way to do this?"

Leaders at all levels must judiciously apply Operational Risk Management principles, even in routine tasks. They must also make sure their people know how to use ORM in day-to-day operations, on and off duty, 24/7, 365 days a year.

Bottom line — everyone must act when they see something that needs to be fixed.

Project SMART emphasizes U.S. Air Forces in Europe's focus on safety that

See *SMART*, Page 5



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Summers

## Around AAFES

*Kristin Audet, assistant manager of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service retail store located in the passenger service terminal, shows one of the store's best sellers to Army Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost, AAFES commander, during a visit to Rhein-Main Sunday. General Frost toured several AAFES facilities during a brief layover on her way to visit facilities and troops downrange. One area she was particularly interested in was the retail store at the air terminal, one of Europe's top selling facilities per square foot of floor space. The store's sales have increased fourfold since the war in Iraq began.*

## Annual award winners set to compete

Congratulations to the following individuals who were recently named annual award winners for their units.

Winners will compete for the Rhein-Main Community Annual Awards to be announced at a banquet Saturday at the Zeppelinhaus.

Annual award winners from the 469th Air Base Group included:

- Airman of the Year – **Senior Airman Jacob Kelecava**, Security Forces Flight;

- NCO of the Year – **Tech. Sgt. Victor Odom**, Security Forces Flight;

- Senior NCO of the Year – **Master Sgt. Charles Faust**, Civil Engineer Flight;

- CGO of the Year – **1st Lt. Jeffrey Adams**, Security Forces Flight;

- Civilian (Category I) – **Sheryl Cooks**, Base Post Office;

- Civilian (Category II) – **Paul Molnar**, Civil Engineer Flight.

Winners from the 726th Air Mobility Squadron included:

- Airman of the Year – **Staff Sgt. Peter Bishop**;

- NCO of the Year – **Tech. Sgt. Jason Eighmey**;

- Senior NCO of the Year – **Master Sgt. Marino Duran III**;

- CGO of the Year – **1st Lt. Eric McGreevy**;

- Civilian (Category I) – **Mahendra Gupta**;

- Civilian (Category II) – **Sally Easterling**.

Winners from Det. 1, U.S. Air Forces in Europe Postal Squadron included:

- Airman of the Year – **Airman 1st Class Lichella Spikes**;

- NCO of the Year – **Staff Sgt. Michael Long**;

- Senior NCO of the Year – **Master Sgt. Danny Watson**.

Winners from the 485th Intelligence Squadron included:

- Airman of the Year – **Senior Airman Kenneth Sturgis**;



- NCO of the Year – **Tech. Sgt. Christopher Penberthy**;

- Senior NCO of the Year – **Master Sgt. Georgann Crean**;

- CGO of the Year – **1st Lt. Alan Montminy**.



## Where am I?

# And what am I doing in this handbasket?

**By Maj. Elizabeth Rodriguez**  
Staff Judge Advocate

I recently had the duty of serving at Spangdahlem Air Base as a summary court-martial, or judge, for a case involving "drunk driving."

Unfortunately for the airman charged, this was his second Driving Under the Influence within a year. Even more unfortunate, he lied about an accident due to drinking and blamed not only a fellow airman but also a family member – his wife.

The commander of the 52nd Fighter Wing decided to proceed with a court-martial instead of an Article 15, the "usual" disciplinary action. Is this a trend for the Air Force, or business as usual?

What is a summary court-martial? A summary court-martial is similar to a Magistrate's Court where you may appear to defend a misdemeanor and the potential jail time is one month or less.

The purpose of a summary court is to prosecute minor offenses under a simple procedure.

Whether an offense is minor depends on several circumstances: the nature of the offense and the circumstances surrounding its commission; the offender's age, rank, duty assignment, record and experience; and the maximum sentence that could be served for the offense if tried by general court-martial. The decision of whether an

offense is "minor" is a matter of discretion for the commander.

What is the bottom line for a summary court?

The punishment for E-4 and below may consist of no more than 30 days confinement, forfeiture of two-thirds of one month's pay, and reduction to the lowest pay grade.

The maximum punishment for E-5 and above may be reduction to the next lower pay grade, forfeiture of two-thirds of one month's pay, and restriction of no more than two months. (Commissioned officers and warrant officers cannot be subject to a summary court but may be referred to another appropriate forum, i.e., special court-martial where the maximum sentences are higher.)

The DUI numbers show that too many airmen are going down the wrong path after drinking (going to heck in a hand basket, so to speak).

Commanders are considering how best to respond to the increased number of DUIs and, more important, potential injuries and death.

Summary courts-martial give commanders alternative disciplinary measures to consider given the facts of each case, the impact on good order and discipline, and an airman's potential for continuing service in the Air Force.

Their bottom line: put an end to DUIs not an airman's career.

Simply put for you: think before you drink and avoid that trip in a "hand basket."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Summers

## I believe I could fly

*Seven-year-old Samuel Pfau, son of Staff Sgt. David Lunsford, 726th Air Mobility Squadron, receives a C-17 orientation from Senior Airman Matthew Dexheimer, 726th AMS hydraulics specialist, during 'Shadow Day' Monday. More than 150 Rhein-Main children took part in the national program designed to give kids an up-close look at the world of work. In addition to going to following their parents to work, several organizations gave tours of their facilities.*

## Rhein-Main

## We're not closed – yet!

For those of you who've participated in wing awards ceremonies, the words "Rhein-Main – We're Not Closed!" certainly ring loud and clear in your experience.

It's our hallmark cheer in support of the Team Rhein-Main men and women who compete proudly and convincingly beyond our little, yet busy, base.

This past quarter marks the third consecutive time a 469th Air Base Group airmen achieved Kaiserslautern Military Community Airman of the Quarter for outstanding performance.

Each time the pride and volume of those words grows louder. It's a testament to our community's commitment and resolve to support and sustain the greatest strategic airlift the Air Force has ever seen in light of closure next year.

Though our accomplishments and conviction consistently prove that closure isn't our day-to-day mission, every action and decision we make today must consider the impact on our ability to satisfy the numerous closure requirements.

As rapid as the contingency operations tempo is now, this same pace will certainly continue after the

contingency mission has ceased and workloads shift to removing government equipment, furniture, and documents, right up to the final hours Dec. 31, 2005. But to get there, we all need to share our initial plans.

Though we're certainly not closed yet, it is the eventual end state of our contingency mission and base installation and we can't ignore that fact.



**By Maj. Shawn Moore**  
469th Air Base Group  
Civil Engineer Flight

We continue to meet increasing demands with extremely limited resources, but unless we plan ahead and forecast costs to move government equipment, furniture, documents, and vehicles, no funds will be available to contract out the work to be accomplished by the remaining personnel.

For base leadership to plan appropriately and best meet you and your family's personal and professional needs, we need to know your concerns, questions and issues.

For example, "When will the clinic close and how will my medical needs be met?" "Where will my kids go to school after Halverson-Tunner Elementary/Middle School closes in June 2005?" Or, "When will I have to move off base, and where will I live until I PCS?"

The public affairs office is postured and ready to receive any and all inquiries you have on the

*The Action Line is one way for me to keep my finger on the pulse of the Rhein-Main community and is used as an avenue for communication.*

*The main objective of the Commander's Action Line is finding solutions to problems or providing explanations for processes.*

*If you experience problems at Rhein-Main, you should always try to resolve problems at the lowest level by contacting the unit or agency managers. In almost every case, your chain of command is the best solution. I strongly encourage everyone to use that route first. When normal channels haven't been able to resolve your issues, feel free to send an e-mail to [Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil](mailto:Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil) or call 330-7779. Please include your name and contact information along with your concern.*

*Action Lines are forwarded to the appropriate agency for action and response. They should contact you within 24 hours. Once an Action Line is started, the agency must provide a complete answer to me within 10 days.*

*The 469th Air Base Group Public Affairs Office is responsible for managing the Action Line program on my behalf.*

*If you have any questions, call the 469th ABG/PA office at 330-7804 or e-mail at [Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil](mailto:Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil).*

**Col. Bradley Denison**  
Commander, 469th Air Base Group

**330-7779**

subject of our base closure.

Call or e-mail them today so the closure office and numerous base agencies can begin working answers and be ready share them with everyone

See *Still open*, Page 5

the **Gateway**

## Editorial Staff

Col. Bradley Denison.....Commander  
2nd Lt Uriah Orland.....Chief, Public Affairs  
Staff Sgt. Matt Summers.....Editor  
Monika Salfelder.....Public affairs specialist

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by deadline does not guarantee publication, however, all articles will be considered. The staff may be reached by calling 330-7804. All photos are property of the U.S. Air Force unless otherwise noted.

*The deadline for the Feb. 20 edition of the Gateway is 4 p.m., Feb. 12.*

## Warriors of the Week



Senior Airman Demetrice Odds

**Unit:** Communications Flight  
**Time in service:** 5 years, 3 months  
**Time at Rhein-Main:** 3 years  
**Duty Title:** Postal specialist  
**Hometown:** McComb, Miss.  
**Hobbies:** Reading, cooking, shopping and spending time with friends  
**What has been your best AF experience?** The interesting people I've met and places I've been.



Tech. Sgt. Troy Edwards

**Unit:** Communications Flight  
**Time in service:** 14 years 10 months  
**Time at Rhein-Main:** 3 years 8 months  
**Duty Title:** Small computer maintenance technician  
**Hometown:** Hopkinsville, Kentucky  
**Hobbies:** Watching college sports  
**What has been your best AF experience?** Travel experiences

**STILL OPEN, from Page 4**

at the upcoming Rhein-Main Community Drawdown Meeting.

This event is scheduled for 6 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Gateway Gardens Theater. I invite everyone to attend and learn the current base drawdown plan. You'll hear exactly what we know, and what we don't know. Hopefully, we can help dispel any rumors that might be circulating.

The closure of Rhein-Main will require a Herculean effort as the base tackles the task of accomplishing the shortest closure window ever attempted—just three months from when the planes stop flying on Oct. 1, 2005, to when the gate finally closes on Dec. 31, 2005.

In that short span of time, more than 10,000 tons of equipment will be removed, all 196 facilities including base housing, POL tanks and pipeline, hangars, contingency dorms and bowling alley will all be transferred to the German authorities.

To accomplish the task every member of Rhein-Main needs to know the plan and work toward its end.

We need everyone's help to sustain the mission and close on schedule.

I look forward to seeing you Feb. 19 at the Rhein-Main Community Drawdown Meeting to discuss our closure plans.

**SMART, from Page 1**

starts with everyone being smart about everything we do and doing everything the right way.

In one of his first policy letters, Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAFE commander, challenged everyone in the command to "take a fresh look at the way they do business and see if there are not smarter and safer ways to work."

USAFE's emphasis on safety has traditionally been strong, but watch for Project SMART to really focus that emphasis on safety beginning in February.

February's emphasis will be on fire safety, Fire Smart. Examine your daily routine to minimize unplanned fires in whatever you burn. USAFE recently suffered two facility fires, one resulted in a total loss of a building and an important community-eating establishment.

Lt. Col. Brian Mullin, a former USAFE Flight safety officer, recently received an Airman's Medal for risking injury while putting out flames on a person who didn't consider the risk while filling plastic gas cans in his pick-up truck bed. Be smart about fire — once there are flames, it's usually too late.

**Project SMART:** Be smart enough to know what's right and do what's right. Safely manage your awareness of risk and actively combat the threats you face.



# Taxology 101: *Taking the stress out of tax season*

**By Staff Sgt. Mark Cave**  
Rhein-Main Tax Program Manager

2003 is behind us and it's time to get paid or pay up!

If you have no idea how to file taxes or what you need to file, don't worry because the Rhein-Main Unit Tax Advisors are here for you.

UTAs can help all service members file their personal taxes. Members should contact the appropriate advisors to ensure they have the necessary documents to file their taxes. Standard items include:

- I.D. Card
- All W-2s or statements of income from employment during 2003
- Social security cards for spouses and all dependents
- Copies of 2002 federal and state returns
- Daycare provider name, address and SSN or employer ID number (if necessary)
- If filing jointly, bring your spouse with you, or a general power of attorney, or IRS Form 2848
- Voided check (for direct deposit of refunds)

The filing deadline is June 15 for individuals overseas.

However, if money is owed to the Internal Revenue Service the return should be filed by the April 15 deadline. Otherwise, interest will be charged beginning April 15.

For other specific items or questions

please contact your respective UTA.

For other questions or concerns regarding the tax program contact Staff Sgt. Mark Cave.

Check the next *Gateway* for information about combat zone exemptions.

Following is a list of UTAs at Rhein-Main:

## **469th Air Base Group:**

- Master Sgt. Michael Vidaurri, security forces
- Airman 1st Class Marisa Shea, security forces
- Tech. Sgt. Eric Cone, commander's support staff
- Tech. Sgt. Valerie Moore, communications
- Airman Samuel Sells, civil engineer
- Staff Sgt. Claudia Van Hassel, clinic

## **Tax tips**

Effective Sept. 17, 2003, all current myPay active/reserve military users and Defense Finance and Accounting Service civilian employees who requested or already had a myPay Personal Identification Number and accessed myPay consented to receive only an electronic W-2.

All other Department of Defense civilian employees who use myPay may elect to receive an electronic W-2 in lieu of a hardcopy W-2 through the myPay system.

To turn on the hardcopy W-2 print, you must elect "HARDCOPY" by using the

turn on/off hardcopy W-2 option on myPay. If this option is selected you will receive a hardcopy W-2 print in the mail.

You will also be able to view your W-2 on myPay. This option is not available for W-2s that have already been provided electronically before the option is selected.

The consent to receive an "ELECTRONIC" W-2 will remain in effect each year, unless an election is made to receive a "HARDCOPY" W-2. Military members may "opt out" of this election electronically through myPay or submit a written request to their local finance office.

## **726th Air Mobility Squadron:**

- Master Sgt. Barry Pohlman

## **64th Replacement Company:**

- Sgt. Katrice McCullum
- Pfc. Andrew Shepherd

## **American Forces Network:**

- 2nd Lt. Nicole Dubnicay

## **Det. 1, USAFE Air Postal Squadron:**

- Master Sgt. Wayne Smith

## **Defense Threat Reduction Agency:**

- Tech. Sgt. Annelouiz Ruiz

\* If your unit is not represented, contact the legal office at 330-7275.

## **Recognition, from Page 1**

or through more formal channels like the quarterly and annual awards programs, acknowledging a member's hard work is an outstanding motivational tool that builds confidence, fosters growth and encourages the learning process.

It also helps the subordinate to see the big picture — how their job contributes to the success of the organization and the overall unit mission — laying the path for future success.

In addition, providing outward and sincere recognition inspires others to do well. It creates an exponential effect with other members' setting higher goals so that they too can be recognized. And, great performers enhance unit effectiveness.

All Air Force leaders are responsible for creating a work

environment that inspires trust, teamwork, quality and pride.

While there are many different levels and aspects to this responsibility, providing encouragement through recognition is the foundational building block. It's a duty that seems so simple, yet is often forgotten.

Every U.S. Air Forces in Europe member plays a vital role in our overall mission. Supervisors, take the time to recognize the hard work of your subordinates. Get involved. Know your people and their accomplishments, and when warranted, reward their efforts.

Highlighting a job well done today will produce better leaders tomorrow — it's our responsibility.

# Army specialist helps revive D.A.R.E.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education program restarted at R-M after one-year hiatus

**By 2nd Lt. Uriah Orland**  
Public Affairs

Halverson Elementary and Tunner Middle Schools welcomed the first class of a renewed Drug Abuse Resistance Education program Tuesday.

Spc. Amanda MacLean, 221st Base Support Battalion Provost Marshal Office, teaches the nine-week D.A.R.E. program and works with the kindergarten and sixth-grade classes.

"Due to a new training requirement, we didn't have a trained D.A.R.E. officer," said 1st Lt. Jeff Adams, 469th Air Base Group Security Forces chief. "The Wiesbaden Provost Marshal really stepped up to support us."

Through the mutual effort of the 469th ABG and the 221st BSB, the D.A.R.E. program was restarted after about a year lapse.

"If we have the assets and the manpower to help, we will," said Army Staff Sgt. Cory Hemkes, operations sergeant, 221st BSB Provost Marshal's office. "Military Police seem to have a bad reputation, but we like to do good things for military members. Although it serves another community, it still promotes the program of educating children about drug use."

The D.A.R.E. program teaches children about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, inhalants and other drugs and how to say "no" when someone offers them drugs. The program also teaches them how to increase their self-esteem and resist peer pressure.

"At this age the kids are very motivated by their peers," said Barbara Annand, 6th grade teacher. "The program helps them stand up to their peers and helps them make their own decisions."

For kindergartners the program teaches them about the dangers of talking to strangers or playing with household chemicals.

"I think it is a great program," said Joann Haggard, kindergarten teacher. "Kids don't get enough adult attention and having someone else here they can trust is great. It also gives them another person they can turn to for safety besides their parents, teachers or the police."

"With on-base housing, kids aren't familiar with who could be strangers. They are very trusting of adults, so this program is good to teach them not to trust everyone."

Specialist MacLean has been a D.A.R.E. officer for about two years and loves working with the kids, she said. "I'm taking classes in early childhood development so this opportunity is great. It is really a win-win situation."

Specialist MacLean also runs the D.A.R.E. program at Wiesbaden, Dexheim and Aukamm.

## Rhein-Main: Time to get back to basics

**By Col. Bradley Denison**  
469th ABG commander

Have you ever heard that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover? Well, every day we are judged by our covers. When we put on the uniform and head for work, we accept a higher responsibility to set the example and do the right thing.

Every so often it is important to remind military members about the proper customs and courtesies associated with our great profession. Several areas come to mind where we all need to focus a little more and do the right thing.

First is the wearing of reflective belts. It is base policy that during hours of low visibility and darkness all military members must wear a reflective belt outdoors. This includes while in uniform and when jogging or biking.

Reflective belts are an important

safety precaution because it enables motorists to see you better.

Second, the appropriate wear of watch caps or knitted caps. According to the U.S. Air Forces in Europe supplement to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, "military members are only authorized to wear watch caps or knitted hats in their immediate work center area." When they leave this area, members must wear the appropriate headgear such as a BDU cap.

For example, maintenance crews can wear them while on the flight line working. However, they cannot wear them when they go to the post office or the Base Exchange.

Finally, we all need to remember the basic courtesies. If you are outside when the national anthems play, stop and render a proper salute. Also, remember to render the proper military courtesy (salute) when walking by an officer of higher rank.

The things we all learned during basic training are still applicable today. Understanding and complying with the standards should be everyone's way 24/7.

If you turn to page 124 in the Promotion Fitness Examination Study Guide, you'll read, "A Way of Life. Air Force members are subject to duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If so directed by a competent authority, they must report for duty at any hour, any location, and must remain there as long as necessary to get the job done. The Air Force mission necessitates more restrictive rules and standards than are normally found in civilian life. Individuals unable to maintain these higher standards will not be retained in the Air Force."

I would ask all of you to take pride in your appearance. Dress and act the way members of the greatest Air Force in the world should act.

# Proposed budget shows AF path

Service set to receive \$120.5 billion if approved by Congress; 3.5 percent pay raise also scheduled

By Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** — The fiscal 2005 Defense Department budget provides the foundation upon which the Air Force will continue the war on terrorism.

Maj. Gen. Stephen R. Lorenz, Air Force deputy assistant secretary for budget, discussed how the service's budget priorities would allow airmen to be a better air and space force and support joint warfighting capabilities.

General Lorenz recently discussed budget proposals to demonstrate to American taxpayers which critical-mission programs will receive emphasis and add to the safety and security of America.

"The budget is the lifeblood that helps us take care of our people, funds our transformation, and allows us to continue to fight the global war on terrorism," General Lorenz said.

Defense Department officials announced Jan. 23 that President George W. Bush would request a \$401.7 billion defense budget for fiscal 2005.

General Lorenz is responsible for planning and directing Air Force budget formulations. The fiscal 2004 budget was \$91.4 billion (excluding contingency operations), and the 2005 budget will request an increase to \$120.5 billion.

The Air Force budget continues DoD's transformation to strengthen combined and joint warfighting capabilities and streamline business processes.

"This budget will ensure we can continue rebalancing personnel and take care of the world's premier fighting force," General Lorenz said.

Overall, about a third of the fiscal 2005 budget is for military and civilian pay and entitlements, with pay raises fully funded. Money will also go toward increasing the basic allowance for housing, bringing out-

## Where the Air Force money will go ...

Overall, Air Force aircraft procurement is budgeted for \$13.2 billion in fiscal 2005.

Officials plan to purchase:

15 C-130J  
airlifters



24 F-22 Raptor  
stealth aircraft

14 C-17  
airlifters



4 Global Hawk  
aircraft



9 Predator  
UAV systems

The Joint Strike Fighter is budgeted at \$4.5 billion in fiscal 2005. Once the JSF moves into production, the Air Force will be its largest customer, with current plans to purchase about 2,000 of the conventional takeoff and landing version of the aircraft. The Air Force version is designed primarily for air-to-ground combat and to replace the F-16 Fighting Falcon and A-10 Thunderbolt and to complement the F-22 Raptor.



The unmanned combat aerial vehicle — a joint program — will receive \$710.4 million in research and development.

of-pocket expenses for housing to zero.

"An example of rebalancing includes taking a hard look at our military career fields and readjusting, ensuring military members can concentrate more on the warfighting mission," General Lorenz said.

The emphasis on people also includes more dollars requested for Air Force Institute of Technology programs.

"We will continue to grow the 'Vector Blue' AFIT slots, ensuring our active-duty people have more opportunities for graduate degrees," General Lorenz said. "We will also triple our technical intern student program that is designed to help recruit technical students for a military or civilian career in the DoD."

Just under a third of the budget request will go for readiness and daily operating expenses. This money addresses increased costs of flying and space operations, operating unmanned aerial vehicles, further protecting communications, and facility repair

and modernization.

About a third of the budget is allotted to continue to develop and buy transformational weapon systems. This area of the budget receives the largest increase over fiscal 2004.

Substantial investments in the C-17 Globemaster III, the F/A-22 Raptor, the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle, global positioning system, Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle, and RQ-1 and MQ-1 Predator system programs are in the proposal.

Finally, General Lorenz said there would be a sizable increase in funds dedicated to transformational communications.

"Most of the communications technology that makes high-tech, precision-guided munitions possible is owned by the Air Force," General Lorenz said. "That includes sustaining the global positioning system network of satellites used by both the joint warfighter and civilians around the world."



## Black History Month

# Time to celebrate achievements

Originally established as Negro History Week in 1926 by Dr. Carter Woodson, a noted African-American author and scholar, this event evolved into the establishment in 1976 of February as "Black History Month."

This commemoration has increasingly been referred to as "African-American History Month," although both names are currently in use.

Since 1926, The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History has established the national theme for the month-long celebration of Afro-American History Month.



The National Theme for the celebration of Black History Month in 2004 is "Brown v. Board of Education (50th Anniversary)."

On May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court announced its decision that

"separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

The decision effectively denied the legal basis for segregation in Kansas and 20 other states with segregated classrooms and forever changed race relations in the United States.

Following are some frequently asked questions concerning Black History Month and answers as supplied to the U.S. Department of State by the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, ASALH:

**Q : Why Afro-American (Black) History Month?**

**A** : The true facts of the contributions of Afro-Americans to the discovery, pioneering, development and continuance of America have not properly and

adequately been presented in the textbooks, media and other communications media.

Indeed, for the most part, Blacks have been left out of the written record about America. The fact that some changes have been made in recent years points to the need for a fuller report about Afro-American contribution.

The designation of February as Afro-American History Month is an attempt by ASALH to remedy this neglect and provide for all Americans the information needed for creative and empathetic understanding about Afro-Americans in the nation.

**Q : Who started the Afro-American history celebration?**

**A** : In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard Ph.D. who 11 years earlier had founded the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, initiated Negro History Week. In those early days, the words Afro and Black were seldom used. It was Dr. Woodson's hope that through this special observance, all Americans would be reminded of their ethnic roots, and that togetherness in the United States' racial groups would develop out of a mutual respect.

**Q : Why was a period in February chosen for the Afro-American (Black) History Observance?**

**A** : Dr. Woodson was keenly conscious of symbolism in the American psyche. He wisely chose for Negro History Week the period of February which contains the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. From its initiation, observance of Afro-American History Month has involved many ethnic groups, not only Black Americans.

**Q : Why was the name changed to Afro-American (Black) History?**

**A** : Bowing to pressure from young delegates to its Cincinnati, Ohio, Convention in 1972, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, Inc. changed its name to the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, Inc.

This name change focused on the new thinking by Black Americans and indicated both the new recognition of African background and the Black person's appreciation of himself as an individual, a citizen and a contributor to the American scene.

**Q : Why has the week's observance been expanded to include the entire month of February each year?**

**A** : During America's Bicentennial celebration in 1976, the Association shared nationally, regionally and locally in the major thrust of American history. The Association expanded the week's celebration to include the entire month to provide more time for programs, observances and celebrations. The idea of the entire month caught on and ASALH was besieged with requests from all over the country to continue observing for one month, to provide more time to the nation and local communities for Afro-American Black History programs.

**Q : What about the future?**

**A** : The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, Inc. dreams of the day that the sharing and contribution of all Americans in America will be so appreciated, accepted and understood that there will be no further need for any ethnic group to call attention to its contributions and exploits for the good of the country.

Until that day arrives, we shall continue to provide the information needed about the Afro-American citizens in the United States and abroad.

*A total body workout*

## Rhein-Main fitness fest, 5K run

Story and photos by  
2nd Lt. Uriah Orland  
Public Affairs

The Rhein-Main fitness center hosted about 85 people for the January Fitness Fest at the fitness center Jan. 24.

The fest focused on total body fitness and included a 5K run, two sessions of step aerobics, an aerobi-thon, a circuit training class for strength training, an introductory spin class, kick boxing and pilates.

According to Tech. Sgt. Don Reynolds, fitness center director, there will be another fitness fest in May.

The fests are intended to "educate and bring awareness to the community at Rhein-Main and to promote a health and wellness lifestyle," said Sergeant Reynolds. Health and wellness focuses on keeping the body and mind healthy according to Sergeant Reynolds.

The fests are open to all military members, family members, and retirees from the surrounding community.



(Above) Jannell Villanueva, fitness center aerobics instructor, participates in one of two step classes held during the Rhein-Main fitness fest Jan. 24. (Left) Bradley Denison finishes the 5K run at the start of the fitness fest. He finished first in the 40 and over category.

### Sports Briefs

#### **Youth Basketball**

Following are Rhein-Main youth basketball results from Jan. 24 and 31:

##### **Jan. 24**

The Juniors lost 33-31 in the final 15 seconds to Hanau at Fliegelhorst Kaserne.

The Bantam A Team won 33-11 against the Wiesbaden Blackhawks. Terrence Garner scored 22.

The Bantam B Team lost 27-5 versus the Wiesbaden Magic.

##### **Jan. 31**

The Juniors defeated the 284th Base Support Battalion 29-19 at Ray Barracks. The Bantam A Team lost to the

Wiesbaden B Team 16-13 and the Bantam B team lost to the Wiesbaden D team 30-6.

#### **Heart-to-heart 5K run**

The Rhein-Main fitness center sponsors a Heart-to-Heart 5K run Thursday at 3 p.m. The run will start at the fitness center.

## Survival German

The family support center offers a six-week survival German class beginning Feb. 18 at "Our House."

The class covers basics for getting around in Germany. Topics include cooking, shopping, dining out, directions, counting and telling time. Contact the FSC at 330-7992 to sign up.

## Cooking classes

The family support center offers numerous cooking classes at "Our House." Classes include:

- Romantic cooking Wednesday at 6 p.m.
- Chocolate cooking Thursday at 6 p.m.
- German cooking Feb. 17 at 3 p.m.

Call 330/699-7992 for more information or to sign up.

## STAP deadline

Air Force Spouse Tuition Assistance Program applications are due between Feb. 23 and March 4 for Term IV college classes beginning in March.

Applications are available at the family support and education centers in Bldg. 347.

Term V STAP applications will be due

## Chapel Worship

The following worship opportunities are offered by the Rhein-Main Chapel:

### ■ Catholic worship:

Sunday Mass takes place at 9 a.m. every Sunday. CCD classes are offered every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Daily Masses are offered Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 11:30 a.m.

Penance - 8-8:30 a.m. Sunday or by appointment

### ■ Protestant worship:

Sunday School is offered every Sunday at 9 a.m.

Worship and Kids Own Church take place every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

For more information please call the chapel at 330-7501.

May 3-14 for summer classes. For more information call 330-7484 or 330-7992.

## CCAF graduation

Air Force members working on Community College of the Air Force degrees need to see Lola Hampton in the base education center no later than Feb. 12.

Transcripts and supporting documentation have to be sent to Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., no later than Feb. 12 to meet the cutoff for Spring graduation.

Call 330-7484 to make an appointment with a CCAF advisor.

## Time for Tots

Time for Tots is a free, parent-run play group for kids five and under. It is a great way to have your child interact with others, and it is a great way to meet other parents.

New groups are forming now. Call 330-7992 to find out winter group times.

## Sweetheart's night

Tired of the same old routine and need a break from the stress of work? Come out to the Zeppelinhaus for a night of dancing and prizes at Sweetheart's Night Feb. 13 from 7-11 p.m.

Light hors d'oeuvres will be served while a live DJ plays the latest country hits. Admission is free for club members and \$5 for nonmembers.

## Sweetheart bowling

The Rocket Bowling Center celebrates Valentine's Day with sweetheart bowling Feb. 14 at 7 p.m.

Take your sweetheart out for an enjoyable night with special music and twinkling lights. Drink specials will be available. Call 330/699-7219 for more info.

## Finance class

A basic financial management class takes place Feb. 19 from 9 a.m. to noon at the family support center classroom.

The class is mandatory for all newly arrived E-4's and below. It's also open to anyone who wants to review the fundamentals of effective money management.

For more information or to sign up call 330-7992.

## Movies at Rhein-Main

**Tonight** - "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

**Saturday** - "Dr. Seuss: The Cat in the Hat," (PG), 5 p.m., and "Cheaper By the Dozen," (PG), 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday** - "The Missing," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

**Wednesday** - "The Butterfly Effect," (R), 7 p.m.

**Feb. 13** - "Tupac: Resurrection," (R), 7 p.m.

**Feb. 14** - "Timeline," (PG-13), 5 p.m. and "Gothika," (R), 7:30 p.m.

**Feb. 15** - "Chasing Liberty," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

**Feb. 18** - "The Big Bounce," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Movies and times are subject to change.

Movie schedules for local communities can be found at

[www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp](http://www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp)

## Wanted

Searching for a clarinet teacher for our 8th grader. Our child has played clarinet for one and a half years. Live in Frankfurt. 069-9563-8799.

## Transition assistance program

A transition assistance class takes place Monday through Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the FSC classroom.

The class focuses on transitioning back into civilian life after being in the military and is suggested for all those who may be retiring or separating in the next 18 months.

Call 330-7992 to sign up.

## New postal hours

The Rhein-Main Post Office is now open on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on a trial basis.

The finance window is also open Monday thru Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. except Thursday when the window closes at 3 p.m. for training. The parcel window is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for package pickup.



# Valentine's Day story: Myth or fact?

Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine.

But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday?

The history of Valentine's Day — and its patron saint — is shrouded in mystery. But, historians do know that February has long been a month of romance.

St. Valentine's Day, as it's known today, contains traces of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition.

Who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men — his crop of potential soldiers.

Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured.

According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young

girl — who may have been his jailor's daughter — who visited him during his confinement.

Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today.

Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure.

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial — which probably occurred around 270 A.D — others claim that the Christian church may have decided to celebrate Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to 'christianize' celebrations of the pagan Lupercalia festival.

In ancient Rome, February was the official beginning of spring and was considered a time for purification.

Houses were ritually cleansed by sweeping them out and then sprinkling salt and a type of wheat called spelt throughout their interiors.

Lupercalia, which began at the ides of February, February 15, was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an

order of Roman priests, would gather at the sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa.

The priests would then sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for

## German observance

Only within the last 10 years has Valentine's Day become popular among Germans and the German economy.

More and more businesses across the country are selling Valentine's Day gifts.

When I started on the base some 20 years ago, there was no Valentine's Day gifts on the economy. In fact, many Germans still do not know the background or origin of the day.

*Monika Salfelder*  
Host Nation Advisor

purification. The boys then sliced the goat's hide into strips, dipped them in the sacrificial blood and took to the streets, gently slapping both women and fields of crops with the goathide strips.

Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed being touched with the hides because it was believed the strips would make them more fertile in the coming year.

Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would then each choose a name out of the urn and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.

Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day around 498 A.D. The Roman 'lottery' system for romantic pairing was deemed un-Christian and outlawed.

The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written by Charles, Duke of Orleans to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt.

The greeting, which was written in 1415, is part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England.

*(Information courtesy of the HistoryChannel.com)*

